

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 8 as follows:

The channel is dimensioned to slidably receive therein, an electrosurgical wire 114, also having a distal end 116 and a proximal end positioned within the channel. In a preferred embodiment, the electrosurgical wire loop has a diameter of approximately 3 cm, and a length of approximately 15-20 cm, with a wire thickness of approximately 0.1 to 0.5mm. One of a pair of electrical wires ~~118, 120,~~ 140, 141, is electrically coupled to the electrosurgical wire 114, and extends from the electrosurgical instrument for coupling with an RF energy source for applying RF energy to the electrosurgical wire. The other of the pair of electrical wires operates as a return electrode for the electrosurgical lasso, and is therefore coupled to a return electrode on the electrosurgical instrument. This return electrode may be a conductive patch or portion of any configuration positioned toward the distal end of the extension shaft, as illustrated by numeral 121 in Fig. 1a. In the alternative the entire extension shaft could be comprised of a conductive material to operate as the return electrode. In yet another embodiment, the electrosurgical wire could be segmented so that a distal portion 127 (see Fig. 1a) is the return electrode and the remaining portion 127 (other than an insulating portion 129 therebetween) is the active electrode. Numerous possibilities exist for positioning of the return electrode, as will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art.